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### IOWA SUPREME COURT RULING - STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER V. IOWA DISTRICT COURT

**Background.** The Iowa District Court for Story County assessed court and travel costs against the State Public Defender for withdrawing from the representation of a child prior to a detention hearing without taking steps to secure alternative representation for the child. The Court's order taxed the State Public Defender the court costs related to the detention hearing, as well as the travel costs of the public defender, the county attorney, and the Ames police officer who appeared at the proceeding.

**Holding.** The District Court exceeded its authority when it assessed court and travel costs against the State Public Defender for refusing to represent the child at the detention hearing. The Supreme Court vacated the order taxing court costs and travel expenses to the State Public Defender.

**Fiscal Information.** The payment of costs and expenses in juvenile proceedings is set by statute. The county must pay the costs incurred in connection with the administration of juvenile justice under Iowa Code section [232.141](#). This section allocates the costs of juvenile proceedings to the county in which they are held. The Supreme Court noted that the Legislature did not authorize the courts to tax court costs or travel expenses of witnesses, parties, or their counsel to attorneys representing parties in juvenile proceedings.

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